

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, FAO

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP CONCERTED ACTION ON FAO BUDGET

REF: STATE 220531

SUMMARY: GENEVA GROUP IN ROME MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 8 FOCUSED ON PROBLEM OF MONITORING FAO BUDGET, PARTICULARLY ANALYSIS OF FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR ALL UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, REVIEW OF WORKING GROUPS OF GENEVA GROUP IN ROME, AND REPORTED PLANS OF FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO PRESENT TO THE FAO COUNCIL AN INDICATIVE FIGURE FOR THE 1978-1979 BIENNIAL BUDGET. SUBSEQUENT TO SEPTEMBER 8 MEETING, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE HAS COME TO CONCLUSION THAT IF WE WAIT FOR FINAL OUTCOME OF CONSIDERATION OF FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AS A WHOLE, WE MAY MISS GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP AT LOW LEVEL THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S INITIAL INDICATIVE FIGURE WHICH IS PRESUMABLY ALREADY BEING PREPARED. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ASKS FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PROPOSE TO OCTOBER 5 MEETING OF GENEVA GROUP IN ROME CONCERTED REPRESENTATIONS TO FAO ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEXT BUDGET, PREFERABLY GIVING A BALL-PARK FIGURE.

END SUMMARY.

1. MEETING OF GENEVA GROUP IN ROME: LENGTHY INITIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9 GENEVA GROUP IN ROME IN PREPARATION FOR WORK PROGRAM OF 1976-1977, DEALT MAINLY WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PROBLEM OF MONITORING FAO BUDGET PROCESS. FRENCH PROPOSAL IN GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATION LEVEL MEETING WAS ANALYZED AT LENGTH, WITH RECOGNITION THAT ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN IN GENEVA AND NEW YORK, AND EXPECTATION THAT GENEVA GROUP IN ROME WILL RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP CONCERTED ACTION ON FAO BUDGET PROPOSALS.

2. IN REVIEWING ITS INTERNAL ORGANIZATION, GROUP EMPHASIZED ROLE OF ITS FINANCIAL RESOURCES WORKING GROUP, CHAIRED BY CANADA, WITH OTHER MEMBERS FROM GERMANY, ITALY, JAPAN, AND THE UNITED STATES. WORKING GROUP ON EXTRA BUDGETARY ACTIVITIES AND HEADQUARTERS-FIELD RELATIONSHIPS, INACTIVE LAST YEAR, IS EXPECTED TO UNDERTAKE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO BUDGET FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM. FRANCE, ITALY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND ARE MEMBERS: NEW CHAIRMAN WILL HAVE TO BE APPOINTED BECAUSE OF RETIREMENT OF MINISTER TUINMAN OF NETHERLANDS. ALSO RELEVANT TO BUDGET MONITORING PROCESS WILL BE WORK OF FAO STRUCTURES WORKING GROUP, CHAIRED BY NEW ZEALAND, WITH OTHER MEMBERS FROM AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, AND UNITED KINGDOM. (OTHER WORKING GROUPS WILL REMAIN INACTIVE).

3. FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL REPORTEDLY INTENDS TO GIVE INDICATIVE TOTAL BUDGET FIGURE TO FAO COUNCIL MEETING BEGINNING NOVEMBER. HIGH FAO OFFICIALS EXPECT FIGURE TO BE QUOTE CONSERVATIVE UNQUOTE BUT SOME GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS NOTE THAT THEIR INTERPRETATION OF QUOTE CONSERVATIVE UNQUOTE MAY DIFFER FROM OURS.

4. U.S. COMMENT ON TIMING OF POSSIBLE CONCERTED ACTION:

THE FORMULATION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S INDICATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIGURE PRESUMABLY IS ALREADY UNDER WAY. IF WE AWAIT THE FINAL OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS ON THE PROPOSED FRENCH FORMULA FOR THE GENEVA GROUP SYSTEM AS A WHOLE, WE MAY BE TOO LATE TO HAVE MUCH IMPACT ON THE INDICATIVE FIGURE. THERE WILL OF COURSE BE SUBSEQUENT STAGES FOR APPROPRIATE CONCERTED ACTION BUT PERHAPS THE MOST EFFECTIVE EFFORT WOULD BE TO TRY TO KEEP THE FIGURE LOW TO BEGIN WITH. THE PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES BEGIN THEIR MEETINGS

OCTOBER 12 AND 13 RESPECTIVELY, AND THESE, DESPITE  
REDUCED GENEVA GROUP REPRESENTATION, WOULD AFFORD  
OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY U.S. AND GENEVA GROUP VIEWS TO  
OTHER COUNTRIES IN PRELIMINARY FASHION.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS:

A) THAT IN THE NEXT GENEVA GROUP MEETING, NOW SCHEDULED  
FOR OCTOBER 5, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BE AUTHORIZED TO  
PROPOSE EARLY CONCERTED REPRESENTATIONS TO FAO.

B) THAT REPRESENTATIONS BE CONCLUDED AS PART OF  
GENERAL CONCERN ABOUT MUSHROOMING COSTS OF UN SPECIAL-  
IZED AGENCIES IN GENERAL, ESPECIALLY PERSONNEL COSTS  
(POINT WITH WHICH DIRECTOR GENERAL MAY BE RELATIVELY  
SYMPATHETIC).

C) THAT WASHINGTON GIVE AN INDICATIVE FIGURE, OR  
FORMULA FOR CONSTRUCTING ONE, FOR USE IN REPRESENTA-  
TIONS.BEAUDRY

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